



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

In reply, please address to:
Main Interior, Room 6456James Mothershead, Esq.
Assistant Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region
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Anchorage, Alaska 99501-4626

February 1, 2006

By Regular Mail and Fax to:
907-271-4143Re: Omar Stratman v. Leisnoi, Inc.
Certification of the Native Village of Woody Island

Dear Mr. Mothershead:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a report as to the current status of the Secretary's review of the certification of the Native Village of Woody Island, Leisnoi, Inc.

Our office has finalized and sent forward to David Bernhardt, the Deputy Solicitor, a briefing package and a draft recommended decision for the Secretary's consideration. The package and recommended decision are being reviewed by the Deputy Solicitor because subsequent to my report of last November the former Solicitor was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate as the Assistant Attorney General, Environment Land and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice, and a new Solicitor has not yet been confirmed by the Senate.

Mr. Bernhardt has served the Secretary in a number of capacities during her administration. He served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Counselor to the Secretary immediately prior to being selected as Deputy Solicitor. The President has recently nominated him to be the Solicitor, but the Senate has not yet held a confirmation hearing. I have no reason to believe, however, that the vacancy in the position of the Solicitor under these circumstances will delay the Secretary's consideration of the recommended decision. I cannot, of course, predict when the Secretary will make her decision.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott Keep
Assistant Solicitor
Branch of Tribal Government and Alaska
Division of Indian AffairsEXHIBIT 1
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Letter to James R. Mothershead, Esq.

Re: *Omar Stratman v. Leisnoi, Inc.* and Certification of the Native Village of Woody Island

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Letter to James R. Mothershead, Esq.

Re: *Omar Stratman v. Leisnoi, Inc.* and Certification of the Native Village of Woody Island

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Bruce Landon, Esq.

U. S. Department of Justice

Environment & Natural Resources Division

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Anchorage, AK 99501-3657

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TRANSMISSION NOTICE**TO: Bruce Landon, Esq.****Transmission number: 907-271-5827****Confirmation number:**

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